(c) The subject 'Broadcasting' is included in the Union List under the Constitution. With the setting up of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, Doordarshan and AIR enjoy autonomy in programme matters. Prasar Bharati is a national entity and its mandate is defined under Section 12 of Prasar Bharati Act, which *inter-alia* include organising and conducting public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public of the country as a whole.

Prasar Bharati has informed that besides providing coverage to State Governments in programmes and news, time slots are given on specific requests from them for programmes from time to time.

Introduction of the CAS for TV viewers

3969. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conditional Access System for TV viewers is to be introduced from 14th July, 2003;

(b) whether Government will insist on routing of pay channels through set-top boxes in the CAS regime;

(c) whether Government have decided on the maximum price band for the free-to-air TV channel; and

(d) whether broadcasters are set to force postponement of CAS implementation because of likely decline in viewership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government has notified 15th January, 2003 as the date within six months from which, it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit/retransmit programmes of every pay channel through an addressable system in the four metro cities, namely, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. Thereafter a set top box will be required to view the pay channels and not for free-to-air channels.

(c) Government has decided the monthly subscription for basic service tier of free-to-air channels and this is to be notified shortly.

(d) Government will not postpone the date of CAS implementation.